



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*  
HIGHER EDUCATION



## 21st Century Scholars High School Senior FAQs (Class of 2016)

A complete list of Frequently Asked Questions and more information and resources for 21st Century Scholar Seniors—including information on completing the Affirmation form and the FAFSA—can be found on the 21st Century Scholars website: [www.scholars.in.gov/seniorrequirements](http://www.scholars.in.gov/seniorrequirements). For questions and assistance, contact [Scholars@che.in.gov](mailto:Scholars@che.in.gov) or (888) 528-4719.

### What steps must I, as an eligible 21st Century Scholar, take to use my Scholarship?

- Submit an Affirmation form by March 10<sup>th</sup> of your senior year in high school.
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the March 10<sup>th</sup> deadline during your senior year of high school.
- Fix any errors on your FAFSA by the May 15 deadline.
- Graduate from high school with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Maintain Indiana residency, as determined by the permanent residence of your parent or legal guardian.
- Apply to and be admitted to an eligible Indiana college, university or proprietary school as a high school senior.
- Respond to any requests for additional information from the 21st Century Scholars program, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education or your college by stated deadlines.

### What does the 21st Century Scholarship cover?

At in-state, public two-year and four-year colleges, your award covers up to 100 percent of tuition and some regularly assessed fees such as technology, student-activity and health-services fees. Your award pays part of the tuition at private or independent colleges and approved for-profit specialty or proprietary schools. (A list of colleges that accept the 21st Century Scholarship is available at [www.Scholars.IN.gov/eligiblecolleges](http://www.Scholars.IN.gov/eligiblecolleges).)

The scholarship does not cover the cost of books, room and board, parking fees, lab fees or any other fees assessed that are not assessed to all students, and will pay up to four years of tuition assistance. Additionally, the 21st Century Scholarship must be used within eight years after the date you first enroll in college.

### What if the college listed as the first choice on my FAFSA is not the school I decide to attend?

If you decide to attend any college other than the one listed as the first choice on your FAFSA, you must change your first choice college selection via eStudent at <http://www.in.gov/che/eStudent>.

### What is eStudent?

eStudent is an online service available at <http://www.in.gov/che/eStudent> for students who have filed a FAFSA as residents of the State of Indiana. The eStudent site allows you to:

- See any issues with your FAFSA that could prevent you from receiving state aid, so that you can make necessary changes.
- View your state grant award amount.
- View your state grant history.
- View your grant application which includes information from your FAFSA, your diploma type, your 21st Century Scholar status, National Guard status and school of choice.
- Update your school of choice.



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### **Must I enroll in college immediately after high school graduation?**

No. You have up to **one year** after high school graduation to use your scholarship. As a May 2016 graduate, you have until the fall 2017 semester to activate your scholarship. Remember that you must complete an Affirmation Form during your senior year and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the March 10, 2016 deadline of your senior year of high school and each subsequent year. In addition, you must be enrolled as a **full-time** student in order to receive the 21st Century Scholarship.

### **What happens if I decided to serve in the military, causing me to exceed the one-year requirement to begin college as a full-time student?**

If you exceed the one-year requirement to begin college as a full-time college student due to active-duty service in the military you will need to submit an appeal. For more information about the Appeals Process, please visit <http://www.in.gov/che/4500.htm>.

### **What if my household income changes between the time I enrolled in the 21st Century Scholars program and the time I graduate from high school?**

If you enrolled in the 21st Century Scholars program after June 30, 2011, the state will complete a financial means test each year that you are in college to determine how much state aid you are eligible to receive. The test uses students' annual Expected Family Contribution, which is already reported each year on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Every Scholar must complete the FAFSA each year to receive financial aid. The state will evaluate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) each year to determine your financial need, eligibility and aid amount. Your family's taxable and untaxed income, assets and benefits can all be considered in your Expected Family Contribution.

There are online tools available that will estimate your Expected Family Contribution, such as [www.IndianaCollegeCosts.org](http://www.IndianaCollegeCosts.org). The current threshold is about \$24,538—which reflects the maximum annual cost of attending Indiana's public colleges. Students with Expected Family Contributions of \$24,538 or more will not be eligible for financial aid under the 21st Century Scholars program. Scholars who do not demonstrate financial need will receive a one-time award of up to \$2,500.

### **Can I receive the Scholarship if I earn a GED or complete a home schooling program?**

No. If you earn a GED or complete a home schooling program you are NOT eligible to receive the scholarship. You must graduate with a high school diploma from an eligible Indiana high school recognized by the Indiana Department of Education (as agreed to in the Scholar Pledge).

### **Can I use the Scholarship if I am enrolled in college courses as a part-time student?**

No. You must be enrolled as a full-time student in order to use the scholarship.

### **I believe I may have broken the Scholar Pledge. Is it my responsibility to report this potential pledge violation to the program?**

Yes. It is the responsibility of a Scholar student and/or his/her parent to report potential pledge violations to the program, as soon as they become aware of the violation. Potential pledge violations should be reported to:

Indiana Commission for Higher Education  
ATTN: Student Support Center  
101 West Ohio, Suite 300 Indianapolis, IN 46204